

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property right or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A vehicular modular door system comprising:
a vehicular door assembly which comprises a vehicular door frame and an exterior mirror body mount at an exterior side of said door assembly;
an exterior mirror body which is mountable to said exterior mirror body mount of said
5 door assembly; and
an exterior mirror connecting assembly having a first connecting portion at said exterior mirror body mount and a second connecting portion at said exterior mirror body, said first connecting portion being connectable to said second connecting portion to secure said exterior mirror body to said exterior body mount of said door assembly from the exterior side of said
10 door assembly.
2. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 1, wherein said exterior mirror connecting assembly comprises a snap fit connection between said first connecting portion and said second connecting portion.
3. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 2, wherein said first connecting portion comprises at least one locking tab for insertion into said second connecting portion and engagement with a correspondingly formed receiving portion of said second connecting portion to secure said first connecting portion to said second connecting portion.
4. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 1, wherein said first connecting portion of said exterior mirror connecting assembly includes a first electrical connector for providing electrical connection for at least one electronic accessory within said exterior mirror body, said second connecting portion of said exterior mirror connecting assembly including a
5 corresponding second electrical connector, said first and second electrical connectors comprising a plug and socket connection.
5. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 4, wherein said first electrical connector is secured to said exterior mirror body mount of said first connecting portion to engage said second electrical connector of the exterior mirror body as said first connecting portion engages said second connecting portion at the exterior of said door assembly.

6. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 4, wherein said first electrical connector provides electrical connection to at least one of a mirror reflector positioning actuator, an electrochromic control, a powerfold actuator, a signal light, a security light, a camera, and an exterior temperature sensor.
7. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 4, wherein said first connecting portion and said second connecting portion provide a snap fit connection between said mirror body mount and said exterior mirror body, said first electrical connector and said second electrical connector providing a snap fit connection therebetween.
8. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 4, wherein at least one of said first and second electrical connectors is integrally formed with a respective one of said first and second connecting portions.
9. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 1, wherein said first connecting portion and said second connecting portion of said exterior mirror connecting assembly are secured together by at least one fastener.
10. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 1, wherein said exterior mirror body comprises a foldable mirror body, said first connecting portion being pivotally engagable with said second connecting portion of said exterior mirror body, such that said exterior mirror body is foldable relative to said mirror body mount.
11. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 10, wherein said first connecting portion comprises one of a spindle and a hinge portion to pivotally engage said exterior mirror body.
12. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 11, wherein said exterior mirror body comprises a powerfold mirror, said first connecting portion including an electrical connector for connecting to a mirror actuator which is operable to pivot said exterior mirror body relative to said mirror body mount.
13. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 1, wherein said vehicular door assembly is assembled remotely from a vehicle assembly line and installed as a unit to a vehicle at the

vehicle assembly line, said exterior mirror body being connectable to said mirror body mount at the vehicle assembly line.

14. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 1, wherein said first connecting portion of said exterior connecting assembly is positioned at a cap assembly, said cap assembly being mountable to said door frame from said exterior side of said door assembly.

15. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 14, wherein said cap assembly is mountable to said door frame from said exterior side of said door assembly via a snap connection.

16. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 14, wherein said cap assembly includes at least one of a door handle, a lock device, a window frame and window seals.

17. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 16, wherein said cap assembly includes said door handle and said door assembly includes a latch mechanism and a linkage to said latch mechanism, said door handle including a connector whereby said handle connector is connectable to said linkage as said cap assembly is mounted to said door frame.

18. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 16, wherein said cap assembly includes said window frame and seals, said cap assembly being mountable to said door frame and an upper window frame portion of said door frame.

19. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 18, wherein said cap assembly includes a fixed window positioned within at least a portion of said window frame of said cap assembly.

20. A vehicular modular door system for a vehicle comprising:
a door assembly for attaching to the vehicle, said door assembly including a door frame, at least one hinge member and a latch mechanism for releasably retaining said door frame in a closed position at the vehicle, said door frame including a cap mounting portion; and
5 an exterior cap assembly which includes a cap member with at least one connector for mounting said cap assembly to said cap mounting portion of said door frame, and at least one of an exterior rearview mirror assembly and a handle assembly, said cap member extending at least

partially along an upper region of said door frame and providing at least a portion of an exterior surface of said door assembly.

21. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 20, wherein said cap assembly includes said handle assembly, said handle assembly being engagable with said latch mechanism as said cap member is attached to said door frame.

22. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 20, wherein said cap assembly includes said exterior rearview mirror, said exterior rearview mirror assembly being engagable with an adjustment mechanism of said door assembly as said cap member is attached to said door frame, such that said exterior rearview mirror is adjustable from within the vehicle.

23. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 22, wherein said adjustment mechanism is one of electrical and mechanical.

24. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 20, wherein said cap member is attachable to said door frame from the exterior side of said door frame via at least one of a snap fit connection and a plurality of fasteners.

25. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 24, wherein said at least one of said exterior rearview mirror assembly and said handle assembly is attachable to said door assembly with said cap assembly via a snap connection.

26. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 25, wherein the snap connection provides at least one of mechanical and electrical connection between said door assembly and said cap assembly.

27. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 20, wherein said door frame comprises a metallic material and said cap member comprises a polymeric material.

28. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 20, wherein said door assembly further includes a movable window which is vertically adjustable via a window mechanism of said door assembly.

29. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 28, wherein said cap assembly further includes a window seal for engaging said movable window of said door assembly, said window seal slidably engaging said movable window as said movable window is raised and lowered within said door frame.
30. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 29, wherein said cap assembly further includes an upper window frame portion which at least partially surrounds said movable window.
31. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 30, wherein said upper window frame portion includes window seals for engaging and sealing with said movable window when said movable window is at least partially closed.
32. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 31, wherein said upper window frame portion further includes a fixed window.
33. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 20, wherein said cap assembly includes a movable window assembly which is insertable within said door frame and connectable to a window mechanism of said door assembly, said cap assembly further including a window seal which engages said movable window along an upper edge of said cap member.
34. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 20, wherein said cap assembly includes a mirror mounting portion, an exterior rearview mirror head being mountable to said mirror mounting portion.
35. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 34, wherein said exterior rearview mirror head is mountable to said mirror mounting portion via a snap connection.
36. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 35, wherein said exterior rearview mirror head includes at least one electronic accessory, an electrical and mechanical connection being made between said mirror head and said mirror mounting portion via said snap connection.

37. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 20, wherein said cap member comprises an upper cover to said door frame which is connectable along an upper mounting portion of said door frame.

38. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 20, wherein said cap member comprises an exterior door panel and is connectable to an outer surface of said door frame.

39. A cap assembly for mounting to a door frame of a modular door assembly for a vehicle, the door frame having a mounting region along an upper portion thereof, said cap assembly comprising:

5 a cap member which is securable to the mounting region of the door frame, said cap member extending along at least a portion of the upper portion of the door frame; and
at least one of an exterior rearview mirror assembly, a handle assembly, and a window frame portion.

40. The cap assembly of Claim 39, wherein said cap assembly includes said handle assembly and the door assembly includes a latch mechanism for releasably retaining the door frame in a closed position at the vehicle, said handle assembly being mechanically engagable with the latch mechanism as said cap member is attached to the door frame.

41. The cap assembly of Claim 39, wherein said cap assembly includes said exterior rearview mirror assembly, said exterior rearview mirror assembly being engagable with an adjustment mechanism of the door assembly as said cap member is attached to the mounting region of the door frame, such that said exterior rearview mirror assembly is adjustable from
5 within the vehicle.

42. The cap assembly of Claim 39, wherein said cap assembly is attachable to the door frame from an exterior side thereof via at least one of a snap fit connection and a plurality of fasteners.

43. The cap assembly of Claim 42, wherein the snap connection provides at least one of mechanical and electrical connection between the door assembly and said cap assembly.

44. The cap assembly of Claim 39, wherein the door assembly further includes a movable window which is vertically adjustable via a window mechanism of the door assembly, said cap

member further including a window seal for engaging the movable window as the movable window is vertically adjusted.

45. The cap assembly of Claim 44, wherein said cap assembly includes said window frame portion which at least partially surrounds said movable window when said movable window is at least partially closed, said window frame portion further including at least one slidable window seal for slidably engaging opposite edges of said movable window as said movable window is raised and lowered, said window frame portion further including at least one upper window seal for engaging an upper edge of said movable window when said movable window is closed.

46. The cap assembly of Claim 45, wherein said window frame portion of said cap assembly further includes a fixed window which is at least partially surrounded by said window frame portion.

47. The cap assembly of Claim 39, wherein said cap assembly includes a movable window assembly which is insertable within the door frame and connectable to a window mechanism of the door assembly, said cap member including a window seal which engages the movable window along an upper edge of said cap member.

48. The cap assembly of Claim 39, wherein said cap assembly includes said window frame portion and at least one window seal, said window frame portion comprising an inner portion and an outer portion, said inner and outer portions being securable together about said at least one window seal to retain said seal within said window frame portion.

49. The cap assembly of Claim 48 further including at least one of a movable window and a fixed window, said outer and inner portions at least partially surrounding a perimeter edge of said window.

50. The cap assembly of Claim 39 further including a mirror mount at an exterior side of said cap assembly, an exterior rearview mirror head being mountable to said mirror mount from the exterior side of said cap assembly.

51. The cap assembly of Claim 50, wherein said exterior rearview mirror head is mountable to said mirror mount via a snap connection.

52. The cap assembly of Claim 39, wherein said cap member comprises an upper cover for the door frame which is connectable along an upper mounting portion of the door frame.

53. The cap assembly of Claim 39, wherein said cap member comprises an exterior door panel and is connectable to an outer surface of the door frame.

54. A vehicular modular door system for a vehicle comprising:

a door assembly for attaching to the vehicle, said door assembly including a door frame and at least one hinge member, said door assembly including a mounting portion; and

an exterior assembly which includes at least one connector for mounting said exterior assembly to said mounting portion of said door assembly and at least one of an exterior rearview mirror assembly, a cap member extending along at least an upper portion of said door assembly, and a window frame.

55. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 54, wherein said exterior assembly includes said cap member and a handle assembly, said door assembly including a latch mechanism for releasably retaining said door frame in a closed position at the vehicle, said handle assembly being mechanically engagable with said latch mechanism as said cap member is attached to said door assembly.

56. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 55, wherein said cap member is attached to said door frame from an exterior side of said door frame.

57. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 55, wherein said exterior assembly further includes said exterior rearview mirror.

58. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 57, wherein said exterior rearview mirror assembly is engagable with an adjustment mechanism of said door assembly as said exterior assembly is attached to said door assembly, such that said exterior rearview mirror is adjustable from within the vehicle.

59. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 54, wherein said exterior assembly comprises said exterior rearview mirror and said mounting portion of said door assembly

comprises a mirror mounting portion, said exterior rearview mirror being mountable to said mirror mounting portion from an exterior side of said door assembly.

60. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 54, wherein said exterior assembly is attachable to said door assembly via at least one of a snap fit connection which provides at least one of mechanical and electrical connection between said door assembly and said exterior assembly.

61. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 54, wherein said door assembly further includes a movable window which is vertically adjustable via a window mechanism of said door assembly, said exterior assembly including said cap member and a window seal for engaging said movable window of said door assembly, said window seal slidably engaging said movable
5 window as said movable window is raised and lowered within said door frame.

62. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 61, wherein said exterior assembly includes said window frame which at least partially surrounds a perimeter edge of said movable window when said movable window is at least partially closed.

63. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 62, wherein said window frame includes at least one window seal for engaging and sealing along at least a portion of said perimeter edge of said movable window when said movable window is at least partially closed.

64. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 61, wherein said exterior assembly includes a fixed window at least partially encased by said window frame.

65. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 54, wherein said exterior assembly includes said cap member and a movable window assembly which is insertable within said door frame and connectable to a window mechanism of said door assembly..

66. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 65, wherein said exterior assembly further includes at least one window seal which engages said movable window along an upper edge of said cap member.

67. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 54, wherein said exterior assembly includes said cap member, said cap member comprising an upper cover to said door which is connectable along an upper mounting portion of said door frame.

68. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 54, wherein said exterior assembly includes said cap member, said cap member comprising an exterior door panel which is connectable to an outer surface of said door assembly.

69. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 54, wherein said exterior assembly includes said window frame and at least one window seal at least partially along said window frame, said exterior assembly comprising an outer portion and an inner portion, said outer and inner portions being connectable together to secure said at least one window seal therebetween.

70. The vehicular modular door system of Claim 69, wherein said exterior assembly further includes a fixed window which is secured between said outer and inner portions when they are secured together, said at least one window seal including at least one fixed window seal extending at least partially around said window frame in a region surrounding said fixed window.

71. A method for assembling a vehicle comprising:
assembling a door assembly at a door assembly line, said door assembly including a frame, a panel, at least one hinge member, a latch mechanism and a mounting portion at said door frame;
5 providing an exterior assembly comprising at least one of a cap member, a door handle, an exterior rearview mirror assembly, a window frame, a window seal, a fixed window and a movable window; and
assembling said exterior assembly to said door assembly at one of the door assembly line and a vehicle assembly line, said exterior assembly being mountable to said mounting portion of
10 said door frame while said at least one of said door handle, said exterior rearview mirror assembly, and said movable window are connected to corresponding connectors of said door assembly.

72. The method of Claim 71, wherein prior to assembling said exterior assembly to said door assembly, said method includes providing said door assembly to a vehicle assembly line and

assembling said door assembly to the vehicle at the vehicle assembly line, said exterior assembly being assembled to said door assembly at the vehicle assembly line.

73. The method of Claim 71, wherein after said step of assembling said exterior assembly to said door assembly, said method includes assembling said door assembly to the vehicle at the vehicle assembly line.

74. The method of Claim 71, wherein said step of assembling said exterior assembly to said door assembly includes assembling said exterior rearview mirror assembly to a mirror mount of said mounting portion.

75. The method of Claim 71, wherein said step of assembling said exterior assembly to said door assembly includes assembling said cap assembly and said door handle to said mounting portion and a door linkage, respectively.

76. The method of Claim 71, wherein said step of assembling said exterior assembly to said door assembly comprises engaging a connecting portion of said exterior assembly to said mounting portion of said door assembly, said connecting portion being correspondingly formed to engage and secure to said mounting portion.

77. The method of Claim 76, wherein said step of engaging said connecting portion to said mounting portion includes engaging corresponding electrical connectors for electrically connecting at least one electrical accessory of said exterior assembly to a door wiring harness.

78. The method of Claim 71, wherein said step of assembling said exterior assembly to said door assembly includes engaging a connecting portion of said cap member to said mounting portion of said door frame, said connecting portion being correspondingly formed to engage and secure to said mounting portion.

79. The method of Claim 71, wherein said exterior assembly includes said cap member and said handle assembly, said method including the step of connecting said handle assembly to said latch mechanism of said door assembly when assembling said cap member to said door assembly.

80. The method of Claim 79, wherein said step of assembling said exterior assembly to said door frame includes mounting said cap member to said door frame of said door assembly.